



Camp Paivika opened in 1947 as one of the first fully accessible camps in the United States. The name - “paivika” (pronounced pi-vee-ka), translates to “dawn” in the language of the Cahuilla Native Americans, and was chosen by the first group of campers to visit Camp Paivika so many years ago.

#### STAFF TRAINING AND CAMPER SAFETY

All seasonal staff candidates are interviewed by Camp Director Kelly Kunsek, who has been the on-site director of Camp Paivika since 1995. Thorough background checks are conducted for those considered for positions. Those selected participate in an extensive, six-day training program to prepare them in their roles working with our campers. Training includes proper lifting, feeding, bathing, dressing, communication, etc. We employ one staff member for every three campers.

#### CAMPER MEDICAL CARE

Our comfortable healthcare center is staffed by registered nurses who provide medication management and other medical care regimens for campers who would not otherwise be able to enjoy the full Camp Paivika experience. This includes but is not limited to: diabetic management, catheter/ostomy care, g-tube care, and breathing treatments. Special diets are accommodated including diabetic diets, gluten free, vegetarian, and pureed.

Camp Paivika is fully accredited by the American Camp Association and is an equal opportunity provider.



## WINTER | SPRING PROGRAMS

### Outdoor Adventure

- Held in September
- For small group of adult campers
- Midweek, off-site campout near a mountain lake or on the beach

### Group Ski Trip

- Held during winter months
- Offered in cooperation with the U.S. Adaptive Recreation Center in Big Bear. Specially trained ski instructors are matched with each participant to insure a safe, fun and successful ski experience.
- Adults with disabilities experience snowy slopes

### Mom’s Retreat

- Weekend event held in the Spring
- Uplifting, restorative respite for women who care for family members with disabilities
- Activities and offerings include delicious food, live music, professional therapeutic massage, instruction in deep relaxation techniques, yoga and tai chi, creative crafts, star-gazing, campfire gathering, guided forest walks, and discussion groups
- Workshop presentations by experts address issues affecting individuals with disabilities and provide participants with tools for stress management and support.

*\*Because the Outdoor Adventure and Group Ski Trip are not on Camp Paivika grounds, these activities are open to special needs campers who require minimal personal hygiene and medical care.*

**Camp Paivika is also available for conference, retreat, and special event rentals. Contact for info.**

Camp Paivika is located at:  
600 Playground Drive  
Cedarpines Park, CA 92322

Mailing Address:  
Camp Paivika  
PO Box 3367  
Crestline, CA 92325

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*“I really, really love riding the horses and swimming in the pool. I have a lot of fun making things and painting in arts and crafts, like my elephant mug. It was fun having a bug hunt for my nature activities. Theater is funny because I get to dress up and create my own skit. This was my best summer!”*

**Memories and friendships  
that last a lifetime**



## PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

Located in the beautiful San Bernardino National Forest, Camp Paivika offers overnight summer programs for people of all ages with mild to severe developmental and physical disabilities such as autism, ADHD, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and Down syndrome.

Programs at Camp Paivika offer a traditional camp experience delivered with nurturing support and, above all, an emphasis on fun. Days are filled with well-supervised morning-to-night activities that are creatively adapted to enable new experiences and encourage participation. We are guided by “can” and not “cannot” - and no one is left out. Our programs are aimed at allowing campers to make friends, try new things, and become more confident. According to a 2014 post-session survey to campers and their families:

- 87% of campers surveyed gained the confidence to make new friends
- 93% of camper families surveyed would rate the overall safety at Camp Paivika as excellent
- 99% of camper families surveyed would recommend Camp Paivika to a friend

*"How could we ever extend our full gratitude in words? For the first time in 20 years, our daughter was able to leave home independently and attend camp with her peers. For the first time in 20 years my husband and I were able to experience some time to ourselves." - Camper Parent*

Contact:

Camp Director Kelly Kunsek

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[www.camppaivika.org](http://www.camppaivika.org)



AbilityFirst Camp Paivika is operated under special use permit with the San Bernardino National Forest.

## Camp Paivika Summer Activities

### Newly Built Heated Swimming Pool

Our new heated swimming pool was specially designed with our campers in mind. The accessible pool now has two Hoyer lifts to enable those campers who need assistance to be safely transferred in. American Red Cross Certified Lifeguards are on duty while swimming is in session. One-to-one staff support is available for campers that require a higher level of support while in the pool.



### Horseback Riding

Experienced, gentle horses are led and walked by a trained staff person. Riders are required to wear a riding helmet and are supported on both sides of the horse by side walkers. Campers with riding restrictions or who prefer not to ride, may still have a rewarding equine encounter in our grooming station where they may pet, feed, and groom the camp horses.



### Adaptive Sports and Recreation

Archery, baseball, bowling, obstacle courses, broom hockey, and Frisbee golf are designed to improve physical coordination and strength, while bingo, board games, and card games are designed to enhance concentration and promote socialization. All camp activities are adapted on an individual basis to meet the ability of each camper.

### Creative Arts and Crafts

Campers explore their artistic side and experience a sense of accomplishment as they participate in craft activities that encourage self-expression. Typical crafts created at camp include tie-dye, beading, ceramics and painting.



### Nature Studies

Our nature program focuses on the elements of our Forest Habitat. Campers will explore the themes of wildlife, plants and conservation, and develop a deeper appreciation of the natural environment.

### Performing Arts

Our performing arts program incorporates music, acting and creative movement. All campers will have the opportunity to share their talents on stage with the entire camp during the Talent Show which takes place each session.



### Evening Program

Evening events are designed to bring the entire camp together and may include: campfires, dances, talent shows, casino night for our adult campers and scavenger hunts for the children.

*"I was able to meet new friends and play basketball. This is my first time away from home this long and I am so happy to have so much fun!" Camper Jasmine*